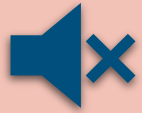


NRP September 2026 Education Session

A QUICK WORD:



This presentation will be recorded and available on the NRP website



Please keep your lines muted during speaker presentation



You may enter your questions into the chat or come off mute to ask

Disclaimer

Presentations are intended for educational purposes only. Content shared is the position or opinion of the individual presenter(s) and not representative of the position or opinion of the NRP.



Professional Development Goals: Turning Growth Into a Plan

Research Staff | 30-Minute Session

By the end of today's session, you will be able to:



Write a clear development goal using SMART as a guide



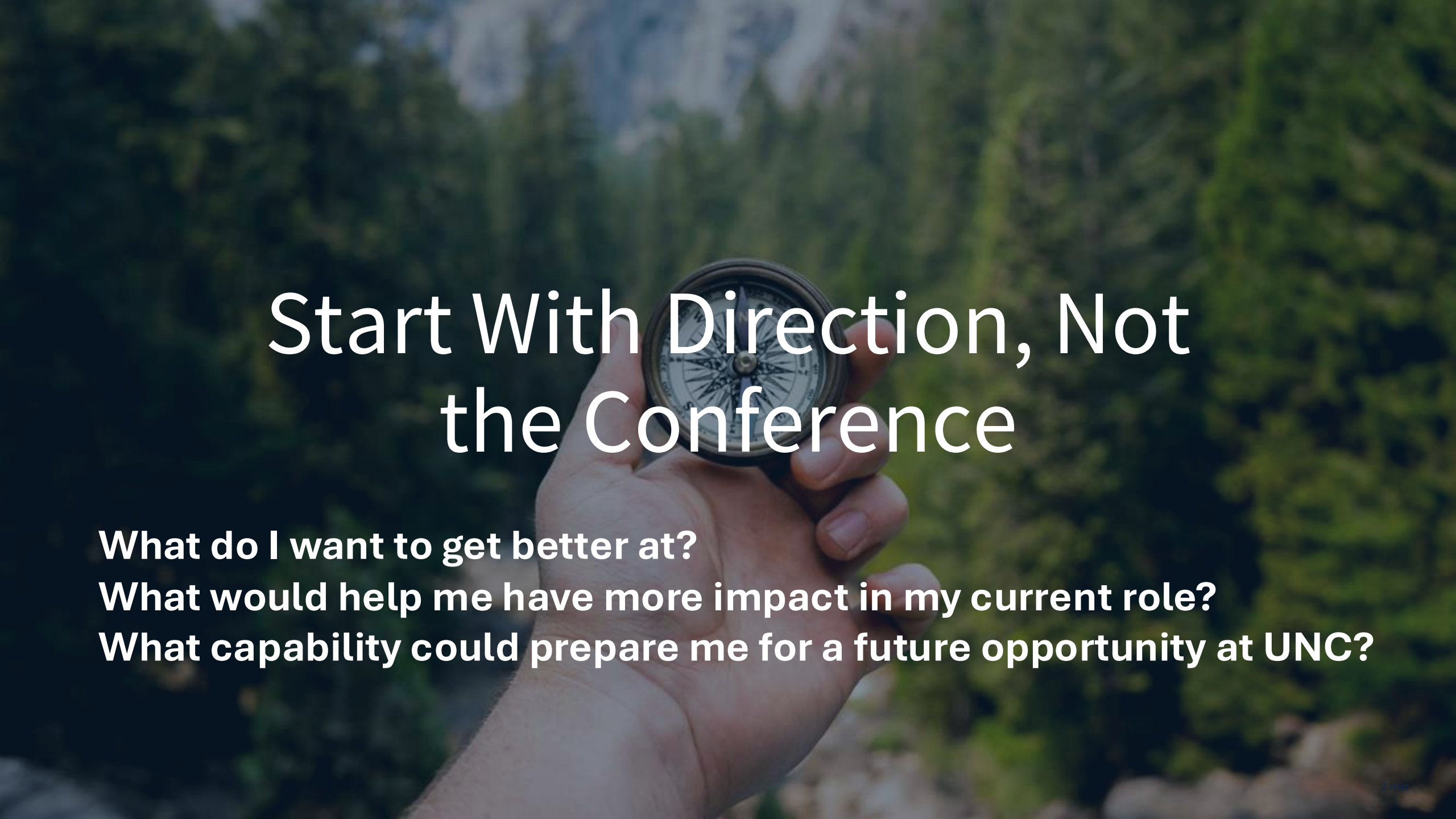
Identify a meaningful direction for your professional growth



Connect the goal to a learning opportunity and on-the-job application



Leave with the start of your own professional development plan

A hand holding a vintage-style compass, with the needle pointing towards the top. The background is a blurred, dense forest of green trees. The text is overlaid on the image in a clean, white, sans-serif font.

Start With Direction, Not the Conference

What do I want to get better at?

What would help me have more impact in my current role?

What capability could prepare me for a future opportunity at UNC?

Actionable Steps

S

SPECIFIC

What specifically do I want to get better at?



M

MEASURABLE

How will I know I'm growing?



A

ATTAINABLE

Is it realistic?



R

RELEVANT

Does it matter to my current role or future career?



T

TIME-BOUND

Is there a timeframe—even a general one?





Use SMART to Make the Goal Clear

SPECIFIC:
What capability am I
building?

MEASURABLE
What evidence will
show progress?

A Strong Development Plan Connects Four Things



GOAL

- What capability do I want to build?



Resource

- What development opportunity could help me build it?



Application

- How will I use what I learn?



Evidence

- How will I know I've grown?

Build Your Own Development Goal



1. Capability
I want to
build



2. Why
it
matters
to my
current
role or
future
direction



3. Resource that
could help
me build it
& How will
I use it.



4. What
will be
different
afterward
?

Development Doesn't Stop After the Event

Use learning in a real research or team context

Complete the conference, course, certification, or experience



Bring back a tool, insight, practice, or resource for others

Discuss progress and next steps with your manager

Your Next Step

Before you pursue a development opportunity:

1

Refine your goal

Be clear about the capability you want to build.

2

Discuss it with your manager

Connect the goal to your current role or future direction.

3

Choose the right resource

Identify the conference, certification, course, or experience that best supports the goal.

4

Plan for application

Decide how you will use the learning and what progress will look like.

A strong development plan connects the goal, the resource, and how you will apply what you learn.

QUESTIONS?



**What is one development
goal you want to move
forward?**

NRP Professional Development Award

The award provides supplemental funding to support professional development opportunities for UNC-Chapel Hill or UNC Health employees whose work focuses on human subjects research.

Application deadline: Wednesday, September 30, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

If you've been considering a course, conference, training, certification, or another opportunity to advance your skills as a research professional, don't miss the deadline.



Eligibility Criteria

- 1) Current full or part-time permanent employee at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (SHRA or EHRA non-faculty) or UNC Health with a position related to research.
- 2) Employed at UNC-CH or UNC Health for at least 1 year.
- 3) At least 1 year of experience as a research professional.
- 4) Funding must be for the applicant's benefit, relate to their position or progression within the research profession, and meet a professional development purpose (not departmental).
- 5) Have not been awarded a UNC NRP Professional Development Award (PDA) for the same or a different opportunity in the past two UNC NRP PDA cycles.
- 6) Must indicate all other sources of funding they are pursuing and/or have already received (e.g., school/departmental funds, Educational Assistance Program, Janet B. Royster Scholarship, etc.).
- 7) Application must be complete and received by the deadline below.
- 8) Willing to present on their professional development activity at a future NRP Education Session.
- 9) The activity must occur during the timeframe noted on the award announcement.

If you have any questions about whether you are eligible, then please contact the NRP at nrp@unc.edu.

2025 NRP Professional Development Awardees

Society for Affective Science (SAS) Annual Conference

Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies Autism Special Interest Group Pre-Conference Presentation

ACRP Certification

Other Example Opportunities

- Odom Institute/Research Talk Qualitative Research Summer Intensive: <https://www.researchtalk.com/>
- The Association of Clinical Research Professionals (ACRP) Certification: <https://acrpnet.org/certification>
- ACRP Membership: <https://acrpnet.org/membership/>
- ACRP Trainings (e.g., Implementing a Patient-Centered Informed Consent Process, Using Metrics to Improve Subject Recruitment and Retention, Site Quality Management Tools: SOPs, Metrics, and Training): <https://acrpnet.org/training/>
- ACRP Annual Conference: <https://acrpnet.org/events>
- The Society of Clinical Research Associates (SOCRA) Certification: <https://www.socra.org/certification/program-overview/>
- SOCRA Membership: <https://www.socra.org/membership/socra-membership-overview/>
- SOCRA Courses, Symposiums (e.g., Emergency Clinical Research, Advanced Site Management: Finance and Productivity, Monitoring & GCP Workshop, etc.): <https://www.socra.org/conferences-and-education/>
- SOCRA Annual Conference: <https://www.socra.org/annual-conference/2024/2024-annual-conference-information/>
- Project Management Institute (PMI) Membership: <https://www.pmi.org/membership/join>
- PMI Certification: <https://www.pmi.org/certifications>
- Regulatory Affairs Professional Society (RAPS) Membership: <https://www.raps.org/join-raps>
- RAPS Courses (e.g., Globalization of Clinical Research Trials and Investigations, Effective Regulatory Communication, Medical Devices: Definition & Lifecycle, etc.): <https://www.raps.org/education/courses?type=course>
- Regulatory Affairs Certification through the RAPS: <https://www.raps.org/certifications/rac>
- Research-Related Professional Conferences
- WCG MAGI Conferences: <https://www.wcgclinical.com/events/>

Evaluation

Post-session evaluation:

<https://go.unc.edu/septnprp>

or scan the QR code.

Attendance Certificate: Download certificate, BEFORE submitting the eval, is found at the end of the post session eval survey.

Email: NRP@unc.edu if further questions or suggestions for future education.

